

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 00363 131622Z

62

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EUR-12

/073 W

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R 131520Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6396

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

UNCLAS GABORONE 0363

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, RH, BC

SUBJECT: VISIT OF ANC VICE-PRESIDENT GABELLAH TO BOTSWANA

1. AFRICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL (ANC) VICE PRESIDENT
DR. ELLIOT GABELLAH AND ANC TREASURER-GENERAL REVEREND HENRY
KACHIDZA VISITED GABORONE ON TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 1975, IN
ORDER TO BRIEF PRESIDENT KHAMA AND OTHERS ON SITUATION
IN RHODESIA. GABELLAH ALSO CARRIED LETTER FROM ANC PRESIDENT
BISHOP ABEL MUZOREWA FOR KHAMA.

2. BOTSWANA DAILY NEWS OF MARCH 13 CARRIED ARTICLE BASED
ON INTERVIEW WITH GABELLA. PRIME TOPIC OF INTERVIEW AS RECENT
ARREST OF ZANU LEADER REVEREND NDABANINGI SITHOLE. GABELLAH
REAFFIRMED ANC POSITION THAT NO FURTHER MEETINGS WITH SMITH
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PAGE 02 GABORO 00363 131622Z

WOULD BE HELD UNTIL RELEASE OF SITHOLE. HE ALSO SAID THAT

ARREST QUOTE STRENGTHENED OUR ARGUMENT THAT THE CONSTITUTIONAL
CONFERENCE SHOULD NOT BE HELD IN RHODESIA UNQUOTE.

3. KACHIDZA STATED THAT AS FAR AS ANC CONCERNED, SITHOLE HAD
NO ASSASSINATION PLANS. THIS STATEMENT SOMEWHAT QUALIFIED
BY GABELLAH'S ASSERTION THAT IF SITHOLE QUOTE HAS DONE ANYTHING
WRONG HE SHOULD BE TRIED IN OPEN COURT UNQUOTE.

4. ANC LEADERS ASSESSED RHODESIAN SITUATION AS MOMENTARILY
BLEAK, ALTHOUGH SMITH REGIME WILL CERTAINLY FALL. IF SMITH'S GOAL
IN ARRESTING SITHOLE IS TO DIVIDE ANC, HE HAS FAILED, ACCORDING
TO GABELLAH. HE STATED THAT THE PEOPLE ARE UNITED BEHIND ANC AND
QUOTE WILL NOT LET ANYONE DISRUPT THEM UNQUOTE.
THOMSEN

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